

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 H-03

SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00

PPT-02 MC-02 DRC-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 /079 W

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O 301105Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5481

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAVS: CPRS TZ

SUBJ: AMERICANS DETAINED IN TANZANIA

REF: STATE 111945

1. SUMMARY. TWO MEN, REPORTEDLY AMERICANS, ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING APPARENTLY TO SMUGGLE SEVERAL GUNS INTO TANZANIA WITH PERSONAL EFFECTS. POLICE INVESTIGATING CASE. DESPITE SEVERAL ORAL REQUESTS BY EMBASSY, FONMIN HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM TO US THAT TWO MEN ARRESTED ARE INDEED AMERICANS AND IF SO ARE TO PERMIT CONSULAR ACCESS. EMBASSY CONTINUING TO PRESS FONMIN AND HOPEFUL REPLY THIS WEEK. IF OUR QUERIES NOT SATISFIED IN FEW DAYS, EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT WRITTEN PROTEST THIS MATTER TO FONMIN. END SUMMARY.

2. COPIES OF DAILY NEWS ARTICLES OF MAY 28 AND 29 ON WHICH WIRE SERVICE REPORT BASED HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO AF/E IN POUCH DEPARTING MAY 31.

3. FOLLOWING IS SUBSTANCE OF DAILY NEWS ARTICLE MAY 28: TWO AFRO-AMERICANS BETWEEN AGES OF 25 AND 30 HAVE BEEN HELD BY POLICE FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH CONSIGNMENT OF GOODS SUSPECTED TO CONSIST OF ARM AND OTHER EFFECTS. POLICE SOURCES
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SAID THESE MEN ARRIVED FRIDAY MAY 24 AT DAR ES SALAAM PORT ON

"GULF MERCHANT" WITH GOODS ADDRESSED KIRONGWE UJAMAA VILLAGE, TARIME, MARA REGION IN TANZANIJ. IT IS ESTIMATED CONSIGNMENT CONSISTS OF 15 PACKAGES WEIGHING APPROXIMATELY SIX TO EIGHT TONS. POLICE SAID ONE BOX HAD PISTOL NO. 89371, AND SOME PISTOL AND RIFLE BULLETS. THERE WAS ALSO TELESCOPIC FITTING DEVICE, SIX CHANNEL WALKIE TALKIE, AND HOLSTER BEARING MARKINGS: "DETECTIVE; B-37A-4" AND "BOUCHEMER; L.A. CALIF. CLARK.". POLICE SOURCES SAID THE TWO AFRO-AMERICANS, WHOSE NAMES WERE NOT DISCLOSED, SAILED FROM NEW YORK IN US SHIP, "GULF MERCHANT" OF LYKES LINES. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME AFRO-AMERICANS HAVE RESIDED AT KIRONGWE UJAMAA VILLAGE IN THE PAST. POLICE SOURCES WOULD ONLY COMMENT THAT THEY ARE INVESTIGATING MATTER. CONSIGNMENT CLAIMED BY AFRO-AMERICANS TO BE PERSONAL EFFECTS WAS IMPOUNDED AT PORT POLICE POST AND MOST OF THE CONTAINERS HAVE YET TO BE OPENED FOR INVESTIGATION.

4. DAILY NEWS ARTICLE OF MAY 29 CORRECTED MAY 28 ARTICLE BY NOTING DETAINEES HAD NOT ARRIVED ABOARD "GULF MERCHANT" SHIP. DETAINEES HAD BEEN IN TANZANIA FOR SOME TIME BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW OR WHEN THEY ARRIVED.

5. CONSULAR OFFICER IS SEEKING TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION FROM WILLIAM MBAGO, DIRECTOR, EUROPE AMERICA DIVISION, FONMIN. MBAGO CLAIMS THAT POLICE REFUSE TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO FONMIN AT THIS TIME. WE CONTINUING TO PRESS MBAGO AND HIS DEPUTY BERNARD MUGANDA FOR INFORMATION. WE ALSO SEEKING INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM MIN HOME AFFAIRS, SO FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS.

6. WHEN MASTER "GULF MERCHANT" CAME TO CONSULAR OFFICE ON MAY 22 TO FILE ROUTINE NOTE OF PROTEST, HE TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT WHILE UNLOADING CRATES MAY 21, ONE CRATE WAS ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED AND BROKE OPEN REVEALING SEVERAL WEAPONS IN AMONG PERSONAL EFFECTS. POLICE THEN CALLED TO INVESTIGATE. MASTER SAID THAT POLICE WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE CONSIGNMENT HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY "GULF MERCHANT" IN BEIRA, MOZAMBIQUE, WHERE IT HAD BEEN OFF-LOADED BY A FARRELL LINE VESSEL A COUPLE MONTHS EARLIER. IT WAS CAPTAIN'S IMPRESSION THAT AT THAT TIME (MAY 21) THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICE HAD NOT LOCATED THE CONSIGNEE AND THEY SUSPECTED THAT PORTUGUESE MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE IN WEAPONS FOR SOME UNKNOWN NEFARIOUS REASON.

7. WHEN MAY 28 DAILY NEWS ARTICLE APPEARED, IN ADDITION TO INQUIRIES TO FONMIN, CONSUL ALSO CONTACTED THE LYKES LINE AGENT. HE SAID THAT TWO MEN HE DESCRIBED AS AFRO-AMERICANS HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY POLICE WHEN THEY CAME TO CLAIM

CONSIGNMENT. AGENT SAID THESE TWO MEN HAD MADE INQUIRIES
SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ABOUT WHEN SHIPMENT WOULD BE ARRIVING.

8. IN SUM WOULD APPEAR SOME WEAPONS WERE INCLUDED IN CRATES
OF PERSONAL EFFECTS CARRIED INTO PORT OF DAR ES SALAAM ABOARD
"GULF MERCHANT" U.S. REGISTERED SHIP (LYKES LINE). THESE
EFFECTS CLAIMED BY TWO MEN WHO IDENTIFIED BY PRESS AND LYKES
AGENT AS AMERICANS. TANZANIAN POLICE ARE BEING PARTICULARLY
SLOW IN RESPONDING TO EMBASSY'S INQUIRIES THIS MATTER, PER-
HAPS BECAUSE OF FEAR OF POSSIBLE PORTUGUESE INVOLVEMENT SOMEHOW
(PARA 5 ABOVE). UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, I INTEND TO
HAVE CONSULAR OFFICER CONTINUE TO SEEK FROM TANZANIAN
OFFICIALDOM RESPONSE TO OUR QUERIES. INFORMALLY I WILL
BE TALKING TO FONMIN OFFICIALS AT MY HOME TONIGHT
(MAY 30) ABOUT CASE. I AM HOPEFUL WE WILL RECEIVE REPLY
OUR QUERIES THIS MATTER IN NEXT FEW DAYS. IF REPLY
NOT RECEIVED, I WILL SEND WRITTEN PROTEST TO FONMIN
NEXT WEEK CONCERNING FAILURE OF TANGOV TO PROVIDE
INFORMATION OR CONSULAR ACCESS TO ARRESTED AMERICANS
AS PROVIDED BY CONSULAR CONVENTION BETWEEN OUR TWO
GOVERNMENTS.

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